

# GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the

**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.  
and The Iron Brigade Association**



**April 13, 2023**

**Richard Holloway**

## **Arrested, Promoted, and Transferred:**

### **Richard Taylor's Inglorious End to the Red River Campaign**

A war of unsavory words was passed by Taylor to his commander Edmund Kirby Smith during the Red River Campaign, which led to the former's arrest. Within a span of a month, he was promoted, transferred, and ordered to join General Hood in Georgia. What happened?

Richard H. Holloway is currently the director of the Forts Randolph and Buhlow State Historic Site in Pineville, LA. He also serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of America's Civil War magazine and has been president of the Civil War Round Table of Central Louisiana since 2008. During the pandemic, Richard reached out to Civil War enthusiasts worldwide and now his CWRT hosts speakers on Facebook Live from many foreign countries. The viewership extends to 14 countries and up to 5700 viewers per presentation. His group also partners with Savas Beatie Press to host their authors, as well as joining with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum for monthly programs.

Richard has been past vice president of the Louisiana Association of Museums, formerly on the Board of Directors of the Confederate Memorial Hall of New Orleans Foundation, Co-Chair of the Louisiana Sesquicentennial Civil War Task Force, member of the Washington DC Rare Book Group, editor of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference and member of the Baton Rouge and Austin Civil War Round Tables. He represented the Louisiana Abraham Lincoln Commission for Lincoln's 200th Birthday in 2009 at the US Capitol Building as a guest of Congress and the President of the United States.

He has appeared in 12 movies, the TV ministries North and South, 27 documentaries and three country music videos serving both onscreen and as a historical technical advisor.

Richard has written essays on Richard Taylor, Hamilton P. Bee, and William Robertson Boggs for the University of Tennessee Press Confederate Generals of the Trans-Mississippi Volume 3, edited by Lawrence Hewitt and Thomas Schott. He also published an essay on Louisiana troops during the Siege of Jackson, Mississippi for the University of Southern Illinois' Vicksburg Besieged and another essay on a Command Comparison between General Grant and General Tilghman at Fort Henry, TN, for the Forts Henry and Donelson, both edited by Steven Woodworth and Charles Grear.

We welcome Richard to the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, and highly anticipate his talk on the Red River Campaign and General Richard Taylor.

see photo page 3

## **General Orders No. 4-23**

**April 2023**

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### **April Meeting at a Glance**

**The Wisconsin Club**

**9<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin Avenue**

**[Jackets required for the dining room.]**

5:30 p.m. - Registration/Social Hour

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

[\$30 by reservation, please]

Reservations are accepted until

Monday, April 10, 2023

7:30 p.m. - Program

**Speaker and topic are subject to change. In case of inclement weather, listen to WTMJ or WISN for meeting status.**

## **2022-2023 Speaker Schedule**

Find the speaker schedule on page 8.

**[milwauwkeecwrt.org](http://milwauwkeecwrt.org)**

# Civil War Round Table News

## When Reservations are Cancelled

Please be aware that cancellations of dinner reservations within 48 hours of the meeting are subject to payment in full. The MCWRT is charged for these dinners whether they are used or not!

## Your Cooperation is Appreciated

“Walk-in dinner” requests are sometimes difficult to honor. Remember, dinner reservations are to be made at least 48 hours prior to the meeting date. We are always happy to accommodate where possible, but we cannot always guarantee a dinner that evening if you have not called in or emailed your reservation. Thank you for your understanding.

## Special Dietary Needs

We have quite a number of regular members who have opted for special entrees as options to the regular dinner being served. The Wisconsin Club and the Round Table will make every effort to meet any special dietary needs you may have. As a courtesy, **please give a reminder when making your reservations**, so we don't forget to serve you what you're expecting!

## Non-Discrimination Statement

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, creed, ancestry, pregnancy, marital or parental status, gender identity or expression, veteran status, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other legally protected status in its educational programs, activities, or membership.

## Donna Agnelly Celebration of Life

A Celebration of Life/Memorial Event will be held for Donna Agnelly on May 6 at Marty's Restaurant, located at 201 W. Main Street, Waterford, WI 53185.

The time for this celebration has not been determined as of this printing. When it is known, that information will be posted on the Round Table Facebook page.

## Election: Board of Directors

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the nominating committee of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee recommends the following slate of nominees for the upcoming election of members to the Board of Directors for a three-year term ending in May 2026. The election will take place at the May 11, 2023 Milwaukee Civil War Round Table meeting.

Michael Benton - Dale Bspalec - Van Harl  
Thomas Hesse - Justin Tolomeo

## The Muster Roll: NEW MEMBERS



### MCWRT Annual Fund

The following members have made a generous commitment to the MCWRT by investing in that fund. This list reflects those donations made through January 15, 2023.

#### Major Contributor (\$500 and above)

Gerald Frangesch, In Memory of Robert Parrish \$500

#### Patron (\$200 - \$499)

Doug Haag, Dawn & Van Harl, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Dan Nettesheim, Laura Rinaldi

#### Associate (\$100 - \$199)

Donna Agnelly, Tom & Terry Arliskas, Michael Benton, Mike Deeken, Ellen DeMers, Gary & Judy Ertel, Jim Heintz, Bill & Claudette Finke, Peter & Jean Jacobsohn, David Jordan, Jerome Kowalski, Kathy McNally, Dennis Slater

#### Contributor (up to \$99)

George Affeldt, Jeryl Anthony, Brian Apfel, Dale Bspalec, Crain Bliwas, Angela Bodven, Robert Christie, Gordon Dammann, Larry Desotell & Deborah Wied, Thomas Doyle, Lori Duginski, John Durr, Paul Eilbes, Julian Gonzalez, Brian Gunn, Leon & Margaret Harris, Christopher Johnson, Grant Johnson, John Kuhnmuensch, Jay Lauck, Steve Leopold, Fred Madsen, Rod Malinowski, Paul & Susan Miller, Herb Oechler, Tom Olsen, Tom Pokrandt, John Rodahl, Diana Smurawa, Sam Solberg, Dan Tanty, Justin Tolomeo, Bernard Van Dinter, Daniel Wartinbee, Paul Zehren

#### Speaker Enhancement Fund

George Affeldt, Donna Agnelly, Jeryl Anthony, Tom & Terry Arliskas, Jim Blake, Angela Bodven, Robert Christie, Ellen DeMers, Thomas Doyle, Lori Duginski, Paul Eilbes, Gerald Frangesch, Julian Gonzalez, Brian Gunn, Doug Haag, Jim Heinz, Tom Hesse, Don Hilbig, Peter & Jean Jaconsohn, Gene & Jane Jamrozy, Grant Johnson, Allan Kasprzak, Don & Mary Korte, Jay Lauck, Steve Leopold, Rod Malinowski, Robin Martin, Kathy McNally, Jim & Monica Millane, Dennis Mueller (in memory of Dr. Frank Klement), Herb Oechler, Tom Olsen, David Perez, John & Susan Petty, Tom Pokrandt, Laura Rinaldi, John Rodahl, Bob & Carla Rodzaj, Brad & Kathy Schotanus, Diane Smurawa, Dan Tanty, Paul Zehren



In April 2003 Kenneth Noe spoke to us about *The Battle of Perryville*.

Horace Mewborn spoke to the Round Table about *Mosby and His Rangers* in April of 2006.

*Brother Against Brother* was the topic of Robert E. Lee Krick's talk in April of 2007.

In April of 2010 David O. Stewart shared his insights about *The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson*.

April of 2012 Marshall D. Krolick's topic was *Riding for the Union: Memoirs of the 8<sup>th</sup> Illinois Cavalry*.

*The Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln* was the title of the April 2015 presentation given by Michael Burlingame.

In April 2016 Greg Biggs spoke about *Nashville: Siren's Song of the Confederacy*.

*The History of the Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant* was presented by John Marszalek in April of 2018.

The Round Table did not meet in April of 2020 because our venues were closed due to Covid.

Last year's April speaker was Jeff William Hunt discussing *Meade and Lee at Rappahannock Station*.



April speaker Richard Holloway studies "Baton Rouge Poison Pic." WHAT?

## Kenosha Civil War Museum Second Friday Lecture Series

Sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and the Iron Brigade Association

Friday, April 14

Noon

**Shaking Loose the Facts: or, How I Came to Resent Herman Melville** presented by Linda Stevens

Before Google, there was real research — places you had to go, things you had to do, confirmations you had to get, to work out what really happened and describe it accurately. One journalist decides to write a novel about the Shakers (those most mysterious and misunderstood earthly angels), and write it *right*.

Because, by an almost unbelievable coincidence, a Shaker community was sited at the very crossroads of Western Kentucky's little-known theatre of the Civil War: two roads north-to-south, east-to-west, traveled daily and ceaselessly by troops of both sides. Steadfast in their pacifism, the Shakers drew the wrath of both sides in the conflict — even as the combatants depended absolutely on the tireless generosity these gentle people accorded anyone who asked for it. In a novel described as "stunning" and "mesmerizing," *Kindly Welcome* weds groundbreaking research and extraordinary characters to prove, once again, that the Civil War had the power to destroy anything it touched.

Linda Stevens is the author of the book *Kindly Welcome*, a historical novel that explores the precarious position of pacifist Shakers during the American Civil War. At this program, she will describe the process of research and writing that she used to write the book, as well as the challenges of writing historical fiction.

Friday, May 12

Noon

**Vicksburg After the Fall**  
presented by Gene Eric Salecker

With the capture of Vicksburg in July 1863, the Bluff City became a Union citadel within the Confederacy, accessible only via the Mississippi River. Turned into a major Union supply base, Vicksburg was the starting point for a number of Union expeditions or raids throughout the rest of the war. At the same time, the city became a haven for thousands of liberated enslaved people. And at the very end of the war, Vicksburg became a way station for Union ex-prisoners-of-war being sent back home from Andersonville and other Confederate prisons. On May 12, you will hear "the rest of the story" concerning the city Abraham Lincoln famously called "the Key" to the Confederacy.



### From the Third Wisconsin Cavalry Camp Washburn, Jan.1, 1862

Messrs. Editors - Camp Washburn is situated on the old Fair ground, at Cold Springs, about three miles west of Milwaukee, and is a fine site for a camp, inasmuch as it is studded inside, as well as out side of the ground, with fine trees, affording an excellent shelter from wind and storm.

Col. Washburn has admirably provided for the wants of his Regiment, by having commodious barracks built, separately, for each company, capable of accommodating one hundred men each. The dining and cook rooms adjoining each are also neat apartments. All the buildings are of undressed timber, and the whole appearance is rustic, and makes one think of olden times, when our sires began to make habitations on the new continent of America, and numerous families bunked under the same roof, and dined at the same table.

Most of the stables have been built, and there are now fifty-six serviceable horses already here; and there are agents contracting for more, and who, it is expected, will soon supply the demand.

The uniforms for the Regiment are expected during the present week, and they will be welcomed by many,, who left their homes without providing changes for more than two or three weeks.

The provision for the health of the Regiment is excellent; for the medical staff are, as far as I can learn, without a superior in any regiment in the State, as to ability and kindness. And further, there is a bath room, with a number of apartments, each containing a bathing tub, which is connected by pipes two reservoirs of cold and warm water, to suit the bathers; and each company are required to occupy the rooms during one half day in each week, for their ablution.

The operative department is subject to much criticism by the "boys." The eatables consist for breakfast, meat, bread and coffee; for dinner, bread, meat and coffee; for supper, coffee, bread and meat; so you see we have an extensive variety.

The rations are occasionally changed for beans, potatoes, rice and molasses, just often enough to keep us in remembrance that there are other eatables besides our everyday staples. Any artist who would study the expressions of countenances, from wry faces up to hearty contentment, had better manage to come to camp with a fresh company, and be sure and make observations at meal time. Those who cannot relish their allowance, are brought to their appetite much as the blacksmith cured his dainty dog- by starving him to it.

Camp life is more detrimental to the mental and moral improvement of the men, than is, I think, generally realized by outsider. I would prefer to see a nation become practiced in the arts of defense by the old system of days of training-let them be few or many in the year- and I think it would avoid the evil results of camp life. Then we should be prepared, on the spur of the moment, to protect our liberties from ruthless bands of traitors and foreign intruders.

Respectfully, H. R. B.

### The Battle of Honey Springs

The Third Wisconsin Cavalry saw some serious fighting under General James Blunt in 1863. Prior to this, the Confederacy seemed to be having her way in what was called the Indian Territory.

6,000 rebels under General Douglass Cooper were encamped at Honey Springs, with another 3,000 troops on their way as reinforcements. From Fort Gibson, 25 miles to the northeast, Blunt determined to strike hard before those extra troops could arrive. Blunt's command totaled about 3,000 men and included the Third Wisconsin Cavalry.

Blunt's after-action report asserted the following:

*My forces engaged were the First, Second, and Third Indian, First Kansas (colored), detachments of the Second Colorado, Sixth Kansas, and Third Wisconsin Cavalry, Hopkins' battery of four guns, two sections of Second Kansas Battery, under Capt. E. A. Smith, and four howitzers attached to the cavalry.*

*Much credit is due to all of them for their gallantry. The First Kansas (colored) particularly distinguished itself; they fought like veterans, and preserved their line unbroken throughout the engagement. Their coolness and bravery I have never seen surpassed; they were in the hottest of the fight, and opposed to Texas troops twice their number, whom they completely routed. One Texas regiment (the Twentieth Cavalry) that fought against them went into the fight with 300 men and came out with only 60. It would be invidious to make particular mention of any one where all did their duty so well.*

At about 10 a.m., the Union forces advanced, artillery exchanges began, and the battle was on. The fighting was difficult as the two sides had to advance through brush and timber, leading to some confusion in the lines in the center. The 1st Kansas Colored Infantry fought off an attack by the 20th and 29th Texas. At one point, the 2nd Indian Home Guard and 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry, supported by the cavalry's mountain howitzers, advanced on the Confederate left, forcing it back on the center. Finally, Cooper ordered his Confederates back across Elk Creek. Rebel forces put up a stand to defend the fords and bridge crossing the creek, but were forced to retreat. Prior to this fight, the Confederacy basically had her way in what was called the Indian Territory. Although fighting continued in this theater for the rest of the war, Fort Gibson would remain in Union hands for the duration.



## Data Centers Loom Ugly on the Horizon

Data Centers are everywhere in Northern Virginia and more are coming.

In 2018, the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors voted to approve a data center complex directly on Goose Creek, a state designated scenic river, despite enormous opposition from preservationists, environmentalists and voters.

In December of 2022, the Prince William Supervisors abruptly eliminated their “Rural Crescent,” a protected space they established in 1998 as a permanent Urban Growth Boundary. The reason? To allow a 2,100-acre Data Center Complex next to the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

And last week, the Warrenton Town Council voted to allow a data center in their historic town despite a year of well-organized, loud and overwhelming opposition from local citizens and preservation organizations.

Why is this happening? Why are our representatives approving these colossal industrial structures all across our treasured landscape? Why can't they be stopped by protests and resistance? What is the scale of money involved?

The answers to these questions - and some solutions - are available in Episode 4 of *Piedmont Crossroads* – “The Path to Preservation” presented by the Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area Association. Hear it now at [piedmontheritage.org](http://piedmontheritage.org).

The *Civil War Time Travelers* saw this eyesore on their recent trip to Manassas. Data centers or hallowed ground saved – one wonders if it has to be a choice of one or the other. Is there not a compromise that will fulfill both uses of the land?

## Civil War Historical Fiction- Legitimate Pursuit or Waste of Time: A Whimsical Opinion

People are devastated to discover that Buster Kilrain didn't exist and so couldn't have guided Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain's actions on Little Round Top. Others gasp aloud when informed that Mickey Sullivan fell on hard times and into bad habits in his post-Civil War years. These two events are the stuff of historical fiction, which by definition takes real historical events and people and weaves new stories around them. Therefore, Kilrain existed in *Killer Angels* to add his Irish wisdom to July 2, 1863, and James Sullivan endured some tough years in *Black Iron Mercy* when his black-hatted days were at an end.

History professors like to pose “What If” questions to their students. Had Stonewall Jackson been at Gettysburg, “What If?” “What If” Abraham Lincoln had not been assassinated? Historian Bud Robertson detested the stuff. The newer crop of historians doesn't seem to be so against it. Whole volumes of “What If” topics have become popular. Savas Beatie has a recent book entitled *The Great “What Ifs” of the American Civil War*. As a teacher of teen and adolescent minds, I find it can be the barb that sets the history hook into inquisitive minds. Historical fiction can allow characters to come alive in ways that drier volumes of more authentic prose can hardly do.

Did *The Widow of the South* accurately portray Carrie McGavock's driven nature as she laid out the Confederate dead near Carnton Plantation? Was an actual Civil War soldier ever so naïve as Henry Fleming in *The Red Badge of Courage*? Do readers guffaw or cheer when Rhett Butler tells Scarlett O'Hara how it really is in *Gone with the Wind*?

Did Wisconsin troops have a hand in the death of Frank Haskell? Did the Sherfy family at the Gettysburg farm bury heirlooms in the garden, and were they ever recovered, or were they stolen by soldiers? ~~Was Abraham Lincoln really a vampire hunter?~~ OK, scratch that last one, for obvious reasons.

The stuff of historical fiction can be Paul Harvey's “the rest of the story.” It is the only “battle history” the fine woman to whom I am married will ever willingly read. And, if any of the historical “What Ifs” in this whimsical opinion have set a historical hook in your mind, I stand by the opinion that historical fiction occupies an important place in the tens of thousands of Civil War volumes that **have been written** to date and **will be written** in the future.

(whimsically) submitted by Dave Wege

## The Ninth Annual Emerging Civil War Symposium at Stevenson Ridge

The Ninth Annual Emerging Civil War Symposium will be hosted at Stevenson Ridge (Spotsylvania, Virginia) on August 4-6, 2023. We'll be focusing on 1863 and some of the most pivotal events of that year of the American Civil War.

Stay tuned this autumn for more details about our speaker line-up and other event announcements. Early Bird Registration is open through December 31, 2022: just \$200/ticket (save \$25). [Check out the 2023 Symposium Page for more details.](#)



**Civil War Time Travelers, LLC**  
**A Bloody Road to Travel**  
**October 21-28, 2023**

Resaca - Dalton - Kennesaw Mountain - Cheatham Hill - Pickett's Mill  
 Patrick Cleburne's Proposal to Arm Slaves - Andersonville

Join us for an October 2024 visit as we travel to important locations on the road to Atlanta 1864. An estimated cost of \$950.00 will cover all major expenses on this tour. This includes the coach bus from Lamers, museum fees, hotel rooms, historians, and most lunches. Our speakers will include Robert Jenkins, a citizen of Dalton and excellent historian, along with NPS Rangers and members of our own Round Table.

This is our first 8-day trip and will run from **October 21-28**. We will follow the march of General William T. Sherman as he campaigned to take Atlanta, and Joseph E. Johnston's somewhat anemic response to protect that important city.

Contact Dave Wege for more information: [wega1862@gmail.com](mailto:wega1862@gmail.com) - OR - find us on **FACEBOOK**.

**72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chicago Civil War Round Table**  
**Red River Campaign Battlefield Tour**  
**May 3-7, 2023**

**COST OF THE TOUR:** \$998.00 per person, double occupancy; \$1,250 per person, single occupancy.

Tour cost includes Hotel room for Wednesday evening through Sunday morning, all breakfasts, lunches & dinners; all motor coach services; outstanding Tour Guides; all admission fees; evening programs; and a comprehensive Tour Kit. A cash-bar will be available through all dinners.

**Dinner on Wednesday night is a working supper power point presentation given by Ret. Genl. Parker Hills and is included in tour cost.**

**TOUR BASE HOTEL**

Wyndham Garden – Alexandria, LA  
 2301 N. MacArthur, Alexandria, LA 71303

Call (318) 619-3300. For detail & directions: [www.wyndhamhotels.com/hotels/alexandria-louisiana](http://www.wyndhamhotels.com/hotels/alexandria-louisiana)

**Send this registration form with your payment in full, or a \$200.00 deposit.**  
**Payment in full due on or before March 15, 2023.**

Name(s) PLEASE PRINT: \_\_\_\_\_

Badge Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phones: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Plan to share a room? NO YES Roommates' name: \_\_\_\_\_

Drive  or Fly  Airline and Flight Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I need a roommate; please help \_\_\_\_\_ The CWRT does not ensure the suitability of roommate matches.

Senior Discounts \_\_\_\_\_

Send this registration form with your check, payable to "The Chicago Civil War Round Table" or simply "CWRT of Chicago."

**MAIL TO ► Rae Radovich, Tour Registrar; P.O. Box 434, Palos Park, IL 60464**  
**Call 708-218-1861; Email: [rae@anSOURCE.com](mailto:rae@anSOURCE.com)**



*Through the Looking Glass* features are intended to tell the stories of common folks of the Civil War, whether they are civilians or military personnel. If you have access to the story of an ordinary citizen of this war-torn era and are willing to share it with our members, please consider submitting it to the **General Orders**. Thank you!

## A Veteran of Three Wars

Seth Porter Church, a citizen of Auburn Township in Fond du Lac County, served his county in three wars. Church fought in the Seminole War, the Mexican War, and the Civil War. With such exemplary military service, it is amazing that for 100 years no stone marked his burial place. Thankfully, that omission was corrected in 2022. More on that to follow.

Church mustered in to military service on October 16, 1861 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Cavalry, Company A. Organized at Camp Washburn, Milwaukee, Wis., December 30, 1861 to March 10, 1862, the 2<sup>nd</sup> left the state for St. Louis, Mo., March 24, 1862. It served in the Western Theater of the war. The regiment lost during service twenty-four enlisted men killed and mortally wounded, and four officers and 234 enlisted men by disease. That totals to 312 fatalities.

Seth Porter Church was sometimes listed as Samuel Church, an alias used in his official paperwork. Church survived the war and was mustered out on January 25, 1865. He lived in New Cassel, WI, which is now known as Campbellsport. After a short, three-day bout with pneumonia and exhaustion, he passed away on February 3, 1901. Church is buried in Gage Cemetery, Town of Auburn.

Church's obituary read as follows: *Seth Porter Church, a veteran of three wars, died at Campbellsport Monday, from the effects of a fall on an icy sidewalk. Mr. Church served in the United States army all through the Seminole, Mexican, and Civil wars and was for many years in the regular army. He had recently lived at the Soldiers' Home in Waupaca.*



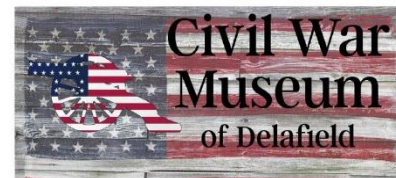
How did it happen that this veteran finally received a grave marker? That story was recently told in an edition of the Campbellsport News through an article dated October 6, 2022. A Kewaskum local named Diane Krell started volunteering her time at Gage Cemetery about six years ago. She would dig out old stones and bases, clean them, and generally make the grounds more attractive. Diane had a connection to this burial ground, as several generations of relatives lay there. As she pursued an interest in genealogy and her own family buried in the cemetery, Diane came across Church's name, and decided to investigate his story further. It disturbed her that this man had no stone to mark his grave.

She contacted American Legion posts in Kewaskum and Fond du Lac. They sent her to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Old Abe Camp #8. Two other local women, Cookie Minz and Carol Butzke, had predated the work done by Diane Krell. They had been doing similar restoration and repair work at the Gage Cemetery twenty years before Diane got involved. However, they hadn't been active in that work recently. It was the paperwork of Minz and Butzke, including original plat maps and cemetery records, that helped Krell in her search for information about Seth Porter Church.

In a special ceremony conducted on October 2, 2022, a new headstone marking the final resting place of this veteran was dedicated at Gage. Present was an honor guard of members of the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War and members of the Patriot Guard, along with Cookie Minz and Diane Krell. We are grateful for the work of Butzke, Krell, and Minz, along with countless other volunteers across our state, who work tirelessly to honor our veterans, now resting peacefully after their earthly travels were finished.



528 Wells Street, Suite F  
Delafield, WI 53018 262-303-4133



**Next presentation: The Campaign for the Confederate Coast**

Please register at our website: <https://www.civilwarmuseumdelafield.com>

Or to register via email or contact us with questions, write to us at: [cwmdel@gmail.com](mailto:cwmdel@gmail.com)

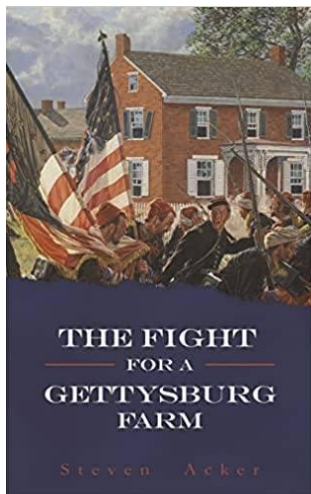
**On Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Civil-War-Museum-of-Delafield-WI-108835694973198/>

## Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College

June 9-14 - 15% Round Table Member Discount

The Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College would like to offer the members of your Civil War Round table or organization a 15% discount to attend the 2023 CWI summer conference, June 9-14. You can explore further details about our conference on our website, as well as check out our schedule for this year's event. At CWI, we believe in the mission of CWRTs and we are making this special offer to recognize the efforts of your organization in promoting the study of Civil War history.

<https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute>



Author Steve Acker will be presenting the story of the Sherfy Farm by the Peach Orchard at Gettysburg. His talk will feature a PowerPoint about the action there on July 2, 1863, together with thoughts about the process of writing a Civil War novel. An excellent speaker, Steve has presented multiple times at the Kenosha Civil War Museum, and spoke at our Round Table in February of 2022, his topic being the 36<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry. The 36<sup>th</sup> is also the focus of Steve's third novel, which he hopes will come out yet in 2023.

The event will occur at the Osceola Town Hall at W1476 County Road F in Campbellsport. Light snacks of cheese, sausage, and veggies will be provided for this 2:00 get-together on April 1 (no foolin'). There is no cost, but a kepi will be passed to defray expenses. There is plenty of parking at the Town Hall, but seating is limited to 50. An RSVP is appreciated to [wegs1862@gmail.com](mailto:wegs1862@gmail.com).

sponsored by the Civil War Time Travelers, LLC

*General Orders*, the official publication of the **Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.** is produced September through June and upon request of the Board of Directors.

Send submissions to **David Wege** at [wegs1862@gmail.com](mailto:wegs1862@gmail.com). All submissions must be received by no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the next issue. We reserve the right to select articles to be printed and to edit for content, style, and length.

All address changes or problem receiving your *General Orders* should be directed to **Treasurer Paul Eilbes**.

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Yearly Round Table membership available: Individual (\$50), family (\$65), non-resident (\$30), attending education institution (\$25). **Contact Paul Eilbes for information at (262) 376-0568.**

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc. admits members of any race, color, national, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, and activities of the Round Table.



**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
2021-2022 SPEAKER SCHEDULE**

September 8, 2022 Steve Cowie  
*"When Hell Came to Sharpsburg"*

October 14-15, 2022 Kenosha Civil War Museum  
*75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table*

November 10, 2022 Mary Abroe  
*Civil War Battlefields and Historic Preservation:  
An American Story*

December 8, 2022 Garry Adelman  
(At the Country Club)  
*Midwest Civil War Photo Extravaganza*

January 12, 2023 Rob Girardi  
*The Union Prisoners of War at Camp Douglas*

February 9, 2023 Charlie Knight  
*From Arlington to Appomattox*

March 9, 2023 Dwight Hughes  
*Unlike Anything That Ever Floated  
The USS Monitor and the Battle of Hampton Roads*

April 13, 2023 Rich Holloway  
*Red River Campaign*

May 11, 2023 Sean Michael Chick  
*Dreams of Victory*

June 8, 2023 Mark Zimmermann  
*The Brutal Retreat from Nashville*

**Speakers/topics remain subject to change.  
We appreciate your understanding!**



**Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.  
2022 – 2023 Board of Directors**

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**~ CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE NEWS EMAIL  
NOTIFICATIONS ~**

Would you like to receive an email reminder before each meeting? How about an email telling you about a special or upcoming Civil War event in our area? If you are interested in receiving an email reminder/notification please send your email address to Grant Johnson at: [grant.johnson@responsory.com](mailto:grant.johnson@responsory.com)

Grant will be creating a database with email reminders set to go out a week before the scheduled event. This is a purely optional choice on each member's part. If you have any questions please talk to Grant at a Round Table meeting or email him at the listed email address.

**Milwaukee Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for April 13, 2023**

Mail your reservations by Monday, April 10 to:  
Paul Eilbes  
1809 Washington Avenue  
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

Call or email reservations to:  
(262) 376-0568  
peilbes@gmail.com

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ (meal is \$30.00 per person) for \_\_\_\_\_ people for the  
April 13, 2023 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee.  
(Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Name of Member \_\_\_\_\_



# **BETWEEN THE COVERS**

## **The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman, Nathan Bedford Forrest**

**Brian Steel Wills**



This review is on a book I picked up at the Manassas Battlefield gift shop on the 2019 Kenosha Civil War Museum's trip. The book The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman, Nathan Bedford Forrest by Mr. Brian Steel Wills. The book is 381 pages. Apparently this book was originally published under the title of A Battle from the Start: the Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest. I'm not sure what, if any, differences in the books are, but I'm not planning on reading the original title. I have read a book that the author used as reference and referred many times as a preeminent authority on Forrest. That book, which I read many years ago is That Devil Forrest Life of General Nathan Bedford Forrest by John Allan Wyeth.

What I like about Will's book is that it addresses why Forrest was often not in the main theater of operations during the crucial times of 1864. The author describes how Forrest lived from his early days until the war. I think that information helps to provide a picture as to what impacted the reactions Forrest took to others, both superiors and subordinates. Forrest is well-defined as a frontier planter whose strong belief in honor combined with an explosive action-oriented temperament made him a ferocious opponent. Yet he was

difficult as a subordinate except under the right conditions. In the case of the latter, Forrest literally offers to slap Braxton Bragg for his lack of action after Chickamauga and only fails to do so because, in his estimation, Bragg was not a man and thus not worthy of the challenge. Wills does an excellent compact bio of Forrest, capturing the early life and his rise to success as a slave trader and planter to a private in the Confederate service to the immediate promotion of Colonel and on.

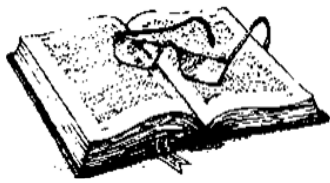
All the daring raids are captured, aided by maps, but aside from Shiloh and Chickamauga, the only truly large operation Forrest was involved with was Hood's march to Nashville, where the inexplicable Spring Hill disaster is laid at Forrest's feet. This is unfair because Hood had responsibility of creating a sufficient force to stop Schofield's escape. The tremendous work ethic, combined with his fearlessness and temper, is described throughout the book, including Forrest's post war life and business. Forrest does amazingly well, defending his Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama sector with a relatively small force culminating in his great victory at Brice's Crossroads.

Wills includes Forrest's post war career with an example of Forrest's feared temper. He describes a railroad meeting where one of Forrest's engineers starts the discussion with a loaded pistol on the table in case the company President, or Forrest, intended a violent interruption. Although not captured in gross detail, Forrest's role at the infamous Fort Pillow is described in sufficient detail, along with Forrest's post war role in the Ku Klux Klan. The role of the Klan is described as an attempt to maintain a retaliatory police force against over stepping radicals and to force former slaves into a source of cheap labor and as a channeled political force, obviously through violence if deemed necessary. The association with Forrest seems quite clear but murky. One thing is very clear in this bio, if Forrest was involved, he had to lead the action, or he otherwise was not interested. A most feared adversary, inventive, unpredictable and incredibly daring leading his men wherever he wanted them to go. As Wills points out, it was unfortunate he rarely had a suitable commander to follow in larger campaigns, and he was not used effectively during Sherman's initial march to Atlanta.

One thing that becomes clear to me in this book is that, while Forrest was an excellent combat leader, he was not necessarily a good subordinate or the complete cavalry leader. His real forte was as a raider. While Stuart was more the complete cavalry officer, one who provided the army commander accurate timely recon and useful enemy intel, Forrest struggled to be the same type of subordinate cavalry officer in my opinion. As an independent unit commander he was ahead of his time, but suffered in the traditional role of cavalry leader and subordinate.

I recommend this book to any student of the Civil War and should find it an interesting source of information on Forrest. If you want a more detailed look at Forrest Wyeth's book might be your choice.

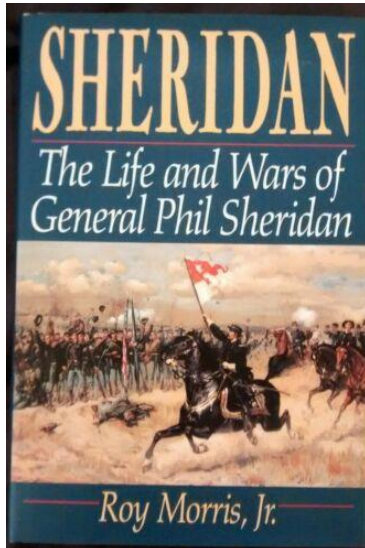
submitted by Bruce Klem



## BETWEEN THE COVERS

### Sheridan, The Life and Wars of General Phil Sheridan

Roy Morris, Jr.



My review this time is on a book I won from our monthly book raffle. The book is Sheridan, The Life and Wars of General Phil Sheridan by Mr. Roy Morris, Jr. This book was published in 1992 and is 393 pages. I hadn't read any biographies prior to this book so I was interested to win this book and read a book that was focused on Sheridan.

Mr. Morris' work begins with the confusion over the fact of where Sheridan was born. His parent emigrated from Ireland and his biography at West point lists Albany, New York as the birthplace. However, it seems that it could have been in a number of places to include Ireland, Canada, Boston or on the high seas. His mother later in life mentioned that he was born on the trip over from Ireland. The family ended up in Somerset, Ohio and Sheridan's growing up bean in this small Midwestern town. Sheridan managed to rub elbows with the district's representative while working as a bookkeeper in a dry goods store and when that representative's choice for West Point flunked out, Sheridan got selected as a replacement. While he eventually graduated, he was suspended for one year for fighting and ended up graduating in the bottom half of the class, which destined him assigned to the infantry.

By 1861 Sheridan had been in the Army for 8 years. Still a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant he had "seen the elephant" from the Rio Grande to the Pacific Northwest, commanded men in battle, been wounded, learned how an army officer should conduct himself and impressed his superiors with his industry, ingenuity and diplomacy.

Sheridan headed to St. Louis looking for a combat command, unfortunately for him his expertise in supply was just the type of man Halleck needed and assigned him to run the quartermaster department and his supply chain. Sheridan later wangled command of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Michigan Cavalry and, from that command under Bull Nelson, won command of a brigade of infantry.

Mr. Morris follows Sheridan's rise up the chain of command from Perryville, to Stones River, to Chickamauga, which he managed to survive and ultimately find success at Missionary Ridge. After the Union success there, Sheridan was transferred to the Army of the Potomac to take charge of the Cavalry Corps. The success he achieved under Grant and Meade enabled him to become almost a legend as a cavalry commander.

The author does a good job in covering Sheridan's continued rise to power after the war and highlighted many of the successes he had, as well as some of his missteps in the political post-civil war arena. A bachelor during the Civil War, Sheridan managed to wed Irene Rucker. They had 4 children; the one son followed Sheridan's path into the Army.

I thought this book was well-organized. It is a good addition to any student's bookcase on the Civil War and provides insight into one of the key leaders on the Union side. It also is a very good book on strategy applied to a war in which much decision making was haphazard. "Get there first with more men" was borrowed from the rebels and applied with better preparation and a willingness to alter plans to suit the terrain and the circumstances. It was Sheridan who destroyed layer a fier layer of Lee's forces, which made surrender the only option. I highly recommend this book as a nice read.

submitted by Bruce Klem



*Wanderings* will return in a future issue.

Please consider writing up and submitting an article about your travels and adventures to the **General Orders**. In the pipeline may well be a story from some folks from New Zealand who have planned a 2-month odyssey through America's historic sites. Tony and Myra will arrive stateside in June 2023 and visit Western historic sites. Their grand tour will then head east via Mobile, the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, and more. Perhaps one of them will agree to share that adventure with us all!

**MILWAUKEE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE  
QUARTERMASTER'S REGALIA**

What better way to show off your pride in our organization! All items are made of first-rate, quality materials, modestly embroidered with the Round Table/Iron Brigade log, along with your name or initials.

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>COST</b>
Hooded Sweatshirt in Northern Blue.....	\$35.00
Baseball Hat.....	\$10.00
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Iron Brigade Pin.....	\$5.00
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Bugle Pin.....	\$5.00
Iron Brigade Medal.....	\$25.00
Red River Medal.....	\$25.00
CWRT 60 Year Medal.....	\$10.00

**Contact Roman Blenski, Quartermaster**  
4601 W. Holt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53219  
(410 327-2847 [dbcpmilw@gmail.com](mailto:dbcpmilw@gmail.com))

You may also see Roman in person at the monthly meeting at the Book Raffle table.

